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Third Committee
Agenda item 12
Report of the Economic and Social Council

Organization of work of the Third Committee and draft biennial programme of work of the Committee for 2004-2005

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its resolution 46/140 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly reaffirmed the recommendations on the rationalization of the work of the Third Committee contained in its resolution 45/175 of 18 December 1990 and recommended further rationalization measures, as outlined in annex I to resolution 46/140.

2. The present document contains, in annex I, measures on the organization of work of the Third Committee, and, in annex II, the draft biennial programme of work of the Committee for 2004-2005. The draft programme has been prepared on the basis of existing legislative authority. It also takes into account the draft proposals on which the Third Committee has taken action. The information in the annexes will be updated orally by the Secretariat when they are considered by the Committee.

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Annex I

Organization of work of the Third Committee

A. Guidelines concerning time limits of statements

1. In accordance with rule 106 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and paragraph 22 of Assembly decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly, at the beginning of each session the Chairman of the Third Committee should propose to the Committee the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers.

2. Further to General Assembly resolutions 45/175 of 18 December 1990 and 46/140 of 17 December 1991 on the rationalization of the work of the Third Committee, statements made by delegations and by Secretariat officials, unless decided otherwise by the Committee at the beginning of the session, should not exceed seven minutes. Statements made on behalf of a group of delegations or made in connection with the sub-items of the agenda item on human rights questions should not exceed 15 minutes. These time limits will be applied with a degree of flexibility towards all speakers. With a view to saving time, all speakers are encouraged to exercise self-discipline, in particular delegations associated with group statements. For practical reasons, group statements are encouraged for the first day of the discussion of an item or a sub-item. In this connection, it is important to emphasize the timely distribution of documentation in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in order to enable delegations to inscribe themselves on the list of speakers at an early stage.

B. Draft resolutions on reports of treaty bodies and reports of the Secretary-General on the status of the treaties

3. Reports of all treaty bodies will be submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with the respective legislative mandates of those bodies. Substantive resolutions on those reports should be adopted biennially, in accordance with the programme of work of the Third Committee. It is recommended that, where possible, draft resolutions on the status of the treaties not be submitted separately but be incorporated in the draft resolution relating to the report of the treaty body. In alternate years, the Committee should simply take note of the reports unless more substantive action is deemed appropriate.

C. Proposals emanating from subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council

4. In transmitting proposals to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council should, to the extent possible, bear in mind the programme of work of the Third Committee.

D. Programme of work

5. An informal meeting of the Third Committee should be held immediately after the election of the members of its Bureau in order to consider the programme of work of the Committee based on a draft to be prepared by the Secretariat and to consider other organizational aspects relating to the work of the Committee, especially the status of documentation.

6. The items allocated to the Third Committee for consideration during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly should be taken up in the following order:

Item

2. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

3. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family:

   (a) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family;

   (b) Parents

4. Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

5. Crime prevention and criminal justice

6. International drug control

7. Advancement of women

8. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

9. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

10. Promotion and protection of the rights of children

11. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

12. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination:[a]

   (a) Elimination of racism and racial discrimination;

   (b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

13. Right of peoples to self-determination[a]

[a] Items 12 and 13 are to be discussed jointly; delegates may make two separate statements, that is, one on each item, if they so wish.

14. Human rights questions:[b,c]

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

1. Report of the Economic and Social Council.

7. This arrangement may be reviewed at the organizational meeting of the Third Committee, particularly in the light of the status of documentation at that time.

E. Preparation and submission of draft resolutions

8. In drawing up draft resolutions, delegations are requested to adhere to the programme of work of the Third Committee as reproduced below.

9. Delegations are invited to take into account the general guidelines agreed upon by the General Assembly in resolutions 45/175 and 46/140 regarding the submission of proposals and as set out below:[d]

Item 1
Report of the Economic and Social Council

Matters calling for action by the General Assembly (Third Committee) or brought to its attention

Questions that do not fall within the purview of the other items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee

Item 2
Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Annual

Item 3
Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Parents (periodicity to be determined)

[b] Sub-items (a) and (d) are to be discussed separately; sub-items (b), (c) and (e) are to be discussed jointly.

[c] Delegations may make one statement each under sub-items (a) and (d) and two statements under sub-items (b), (c) and (e), but should not make two statements on any one sub-item.

[d] References to "odd years" and "even years" refer to calendar years.

Biennial

World social situation (odd years) (resolution 56/177, para. 14)

Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century (even years) (resolution 56/115, para. 16)

Policies and programmes involving youth (odd years)

United Nations Literacy Decade (odd years)

Family (odd years)

Cooperatives in social development (odd years)

International Year of Volunteers (2005) (resolution 57/106)

Quinquennial

Review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (2007)

Item 4
Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

Annual

Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons (2003)

Item 5
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Annual

Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity

United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Combating the criminal misuse of information technologies (2003) (resolution 56/121)

Quinquennial

United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (2005)

Item 6
International drug control

Annual

Implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action on international cooperation against

illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; international cooperation to counter the world drug problem; respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking; the United Nations International Drug Control Programme; measures to strengthen international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related matters; implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

Biennial

Update of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (even years)

Item 7
Advancement of women

Annual

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (resolution 34/180)

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system

United Nations Development Fund for Women

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (2003)

Biennial

Traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls (odd years)

Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (odd years)

Violence against women migrant workers (odd years)

Traffic in women and girls (even years)

Elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour (2004)

Elimination of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2004)

Item 8
Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Annual

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Item 9
Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Annual

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

Biennial

Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors (2003)

New international humanitarian order (even years)

Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States (2003) (resolution 56/134)

Quinquennial

Extension of the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2007)

Item 10
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Annual

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; children with disabilities; prevention and eradication of the sale of children and of their sexual exploitation, including child prostitution and child pornography; protection of children affected by armed conflict; refugee and internally displaced children; elimination of the exploitation of child labour; plight of children living and/or working on the streets; the girl child

Biennial

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (even years)

Item 11
Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Annual

International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

Item 12
Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

(a) Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Annual

Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2002)

Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (article 9 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, resolution 2106 A (XX), annex)

Biennial

Financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (even years)

Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (even years)

(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Annual

Report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Item 13
Right of peoples to self-determination

Annual

Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination

Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

Item 14
Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Annual

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (to be considered biennially after the entry into force of the Convention)

Report of the Committee against Torture

Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Report of the Human Rights Committee (resolution 2200 A (XXI))

Biennial

Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights (even years)

Status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (even years)

International Covenants on Human Rights (odd years)

Reports of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on their periodic meetings (even years)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Annual

Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Right to development

Protection of migrants

Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

Human rights and cultural diversity

Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

Respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms and in solving international problems of a humanitarian character

Right to food

Comprehensive and integral international convention on protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities

Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

Biennial

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (even years)

Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification (2004) (resolution 57/227)

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (even years)

Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances (even years)

Human rights and terrorism (odd years)

National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (odd years)

Human rights and extreme poverty (even years)

Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (odd years)

Human rights and mass exoduses (odd years)

Human rights in the administration of justice (odd years)

Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes (odd years)

Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections (odd years)

Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons (odd years)

Strengthening of the rule of law (even years)

Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order (resolution 57/213)

Quinquennial

Award of human rights prizes (2007)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Annual

Implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Annual

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Annex II

Draft biennial programme of work of the Third Committee for 2004-2005

2004

Item 1
Report of the Economic and Social Council

Matters calling for action by the General Assembly (Third Committee) or brought to its attention

Documentation

Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council on questions that do not fall within the purview of the other items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee

Item 2
Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (A/C.3/58/L.9/Rev.1, para. 25)

Item 3
Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family:

(a) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family;

(b) Parents

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade (resolution 57/166, para. 9)

Report of the Secretary-General on the final preparations for the observance of the tenth anniversary of the Year of the Family (A/C.3/58/L.2, para. 7)[a]

[a] Report submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

Item 4
Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/C.3/58/L.10/Rev.1, para. 19)

Item 5
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council, including the programme and final recommendations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime: assistance to States in capacity-building with a view to facilitating the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (A/C.3/58/L.3, para. 9)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism within the framework of the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention (A/C.3/58/L.4, para. 12)

Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (A/C.3/58/L.6, paras. 20 and 21)[a]

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/C.3/58/L.13, para. 10)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity (A/C.3/58/L.14, para. 24)

Item 6
International drug control

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Update of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control

Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/C.3/58/L.15, sect. III, para. 10)

Item 7
Advancement of women

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in women and girls (resolution 57/176, paras. 25 and 26)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (resolution 34/180)[a]

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (resolution 45/124 and resolution 56/229, para. 19)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (resolution 39/125)

Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (A/C.3/58/L.19, para. 11)

Report of the Secretary-General on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/C.3/58/L.36, para. 7 (b))

Item 8
Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the elimination of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (resolution 57/181, para. 14)

Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/C.3/58/L.85, para. 28)[a]

Item 9
Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made concerning the promotion of a new international humanitarian order (resolution 57/184, para. 9)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/C.3/58/L.39, para. 13, and L.41, para. 10)

Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (A/C.3/58/L.37/Rev.1, para. 37)

Item 10
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Documentation

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (resolution 44/25, annex)[a]

Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict on the situation of children affected by armed conflict (A/C.3/58/L.29, para. 50 (c))

Report of the Secretary-General on a comprehensive assessment of the United Nations response to the issue of children affected by armed conflict (resolution 57/190) (A/C.3/58/L.29, para. 47)

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in the document entitled "A world fit for children" (A/C.3/58/L.29, para. 50 (a))

Report of the Secretary-General on the rights of the child, containing information on the status of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (A/C.3/58/L.29, para. 50 (b))

Item 11
Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/C.3/58/L.27, para. 10)

Item 12
Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

(a) Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (resolution 2106 A (XX) and resolution 57/194, sect. III, para. 7)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (resolution 57/194, sect. III, para. 7)

Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (resolution 57/194, sect. II, para. 5, and sect. III, para. 7)

Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the study of the issue of political platforms that promote or incite racial discrimination (A/C.3/58/L.33/Rev.1, para. 4)

Interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/C.3/58/L.34, para. 46)

(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Report of the Secretary-General on the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (A/C.3/58/L.34, para. 50)

Item 13
Right of peoples to self-determination

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/C.3/58/L.31, para. 6)

Report of the Special Raporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/C.3/58/L.32, para. 17)

Item 14
Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Documentation

Reports of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on their periodic meetings (resolution 57/202, para. 23)

Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken for the effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights (resolution 57/202, para. 23)

Report of the Committee against Torture (article 24 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, resolution 39/46, annex)

Interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture (A/C.3/58/L.42, para. 32)

Report of the Human Rights Committee (resolution 2200 A (XXI))

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/C.3/58/L.45, para. 11)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (resolution 57/210, para. 19)

Report of the Secretary-General on a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Africa (A/C.3/58/L.56, para. 4)

Interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation worldwide in regard to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (resolution 57/214, para. 22)

Report of the Secretary-General on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances (resolution 57/215, para. 25)

Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the rule of law and the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights (resolution 57/221, para. 13)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and on the operations of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/C.3/58/L.42, para. 30)

Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (A/C.3/58/L.47, para. 11)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/C.3/58/L.51, para. 9)

Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/C.3/58/L.52, para. 30)

Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/C.3/58/L.77, para. 12)

Interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance (A/C.3/58/L.65, para. 19)

Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (A/C.3/58/L.47, para. 11)

Progress report of the Secretary-General on an in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (A/C.3/58/L.66, para. 1 (e))

Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (A/C.3/58/L.71, para. 12)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights on a study on identifying means and measures for consideration by States for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (A/C.3/58/L.71, para. 11)

Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of migrants (A/C.3/58/L.74, para. 27)

Interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants (A/C.3/58/L.74, para. 27)

Report of the Secretary-General on support for the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (A/C.3/58/L.78, para. 13)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (A/C.3/58/L.78, para. 13)

Questions for consideration for which no advance documentation has been requested

Missing persons (resolution 57/207, para. 10)

Human rights and extreme poverty (resolution 57/211, para. 11)

Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order (resolution 57/213, para. 15)

Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification (resolution 57/227, para. 5)

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights (A/C.3/58/L.50, para. 9)

Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (A/C.3/58/L.58, para. 15)

Respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms and in solving international problems of a humanitarian character (A/C.3/58/L.72, para. 6)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/C.3/58/L.68/Rev.1, para. 7 (b))

Interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the right to food (A/C.3/58/L.70, para. 18)

Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Congo (A/C.3/58/L.79, para. 10)

Questions for consideration for which no advance documentation has been requested

The situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/C.3/58/L.69, para. 5)

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

2005[b]

Item 1
Report of the Economic and Social Council

Matters calling for action by the General Assembly (Third Committee) or brought to its attention

Documentation

Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council on questions that do not fall within the purview of the other items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated the Third Committee

Item 2
Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Item 3
Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of cooperatives in poverty eradication (A/C.3/58/L.7, para. 9)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning disabled persons (A/C.3/58/L.8/Rev.1, para. 15)

Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General, including an evaluation of the implementation since 1995 of the priority areas of youth identified in the World Programme of Action (A/C.3/58/L.11, para. 18)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the International Labour Organization providing a global analysis and evaluation of national action plans on youth employment (A/C.3/58/L.11, para. 20)

[b] The programme of work and documentation for 2005 will be revised in the light of the relevant decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council in 2004.

Item 4
Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

Item 5
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Item 6
International drug control

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Item 7
Advancement of women

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (resolution 34/180)[a]

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/C.3/58/L.20, para. 24)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (resolution 39/125)

Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers (A/C.3/58/L.18, para. 18)

Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/C.3/58/L.21/Rev.1, para. 9)

Item 8
Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Item 9
Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors (A/C.3/58/L.38, para. 12)

Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States (A/C.3/58/L.43, para. 13)

Item 10
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Item 11
Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (resolution 55/80, para. 4 (c) and resolution 56/140, para. 4 (c)), including the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

Item 12
Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

(a) Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (article 9 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, resolution 2106 A (XX), annex)

(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Item 13
Right of peoples to self-determination

Item 14
Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Human Rights Committee (resolution 2200 A (XXI))

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenants on Human Rights (A/C.3/58/L.44, para. 31)

Report of the Committee against Torture (article 24 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, resolution 39/46, annex)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and cultural diversity (A/C.3/58/L.46, para. 15)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses (A/C.3/58/L.49, para. 13)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and terrorism (A/C.3/58/L.54, para. 13)

Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/C.3/58/L.55, para. 22)

Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons (A/C.3/58/L.57, para. 19)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization (A/C.3/58/L.61, para. 13)

Report of the Secretary-General on effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious or Linguistic Minorities (A/C.3/58/L.63, para. 17)

Questions for consideration for which no advance documentation has been requested

Human rights in the administration of justice (A/C.3/58/L.64, para. 18)

Promotion of peace as a vital requirement for the full enjoyment of all human rights by all (A/C.3/58/L.76, para. 6)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Documentation

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

United Nations A/C.3/58/L.81

General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 117 (b)
Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Bahrain, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, United Arab Emirates and Yemen: amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.30/Rev.2

The situation of and assistance to Israeli children

1. In the title of the draft resolution, delete the word "Israeli" and after the word "children" insert the words "in the Middle East region". The title will thus read as follows:

"The situation of and assistance to children in the Middle East region"

2. In the fifth preambular paragraph, delete the word "Israeli" and insert the words "Middle East". Before the word "terrorism" add the words "occupation, violence and". The paragraph will thus read as follows:

"*Concerned* that Middle East children suffering from the effects of occupation, violence and terrorism are deprived of many basic rights under the Convention".

3. After the fifth preambular paragraph, add the following paragraph:

"*Emphasizing* that foreign occupation, violations of international law, including international humanitarian law, violations of instruments relevant to the well-being of the child, and deprivation, hostility and confrontation are the main sources of the suffering and hardship of children in the whole Middle East region".

4. In the seventh preambular paragraph, after the word "violence", add the words "military assaults, excessive use of force", and before the word "children", delete the word "Israeli". The amended paragraph should read:

"*Expressing its condemnation* of all acts of violence, military assaults, excessive use of force and incitement to violence and terrorism, resulting in extensive loss of human life and injuries, including among children".

03-62201 (E) 201103

5. Replace the eighth preambular paragraph with the following paragraph:

"*Affirming* the obligations of Israel, the occupying Power, under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949".

6. In operative paragraph 1, replace the word "Israeli" with the words "Middle East", and after the word "from", insert the words "occupation, deprivation". The amended paragraph should read:

"1. *Stresses* the urgent need for Middle East children to live a normal life free from occupation, deprivation, terrorism, destruction and fear".

7. Replace operative paragraph 2 with the following paragraph:

"2. *Expresses its support* for all efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and to ensure peace and prosperity for the peoples of the region, including children".

United Nations A/C.3/58/L.82

General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Third Committee
Agenda items 117 (c) and 121

Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.68/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.68/Rev.1, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and people of Myanmar as well as all relevant parties to the national reconciliation process;

(b) To report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixtieth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

(c) To give all necessary assistance to enable his Special Envoy to implement the present resolution and, in the context of the facilitation role, to explore any and all possibilities for discharging fully and effectively his mandate;

(d) To continue to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to enable him to discharge his mandate fully.

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B. Relationship of the proposed requests to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

2. The above requests relate to subprogramme 1.1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, of programme 1, Political affairs, and subprogramme 3, Advisory services, technical cooperation, support to human rights fact-finding procedures and field activities, of programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as revised.[1]

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. In his report to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General stated that the United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the international community at large must join hands in order to facilitate the democratic transition in Myanmar in time for 2006, when the country assumes the ASEAN chairmanship. He also reiterated his determination to do his utmost, together with all interested Member States, to revive/reinvigorate the national reconciliation process.[2]

4. In his subsequent update on the efforts of his good offices, the Secretary-General noted that the Government of Myanmar had announced a new seven-step road map to democracy, but had yet to take into account the views expressed by a large number of parties inside Myanmar by demonstrating concretely that the road map process would be genuinely participatory and transparent and, as a matter of priority, defining the time line for its implementation. He also appealed to the Prime Minister and other Myanmar Government leaders to immediately lift the remaining restrictions imposed on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, other National League for Democracy (NLD) leaders and those detained in connection with the 30 May 2003 incident, and to allow NLD to reopen its offices across the country. He further appealed to the Government to begin a substantive dialogue with NLD and representatives of all of Myanmar's political parties and ethnic nationalities for implementing the road map in a meaningful way. Furthermore, the Secretary-General underscored his firm belief that those steps were the first requirements for a successful democratic transition, and reiterated the need for his Special Envoy to be allowed to visit Myanmar as soon as possible to facilitate the process of national reconciliation and democratization.[3]

5. Consistent with the requests contained in paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.68/Rev.1, the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General would be continued in 2004, in pursuit of his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and people of Myanmar, as well as all relevant parties to the national reconciliation process. The efforts of his good offices would be carried out through his Special Envoy, and the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution would be reported to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixtieth session.

D. Estimated resource requirements

6. The estimated costs of continuing the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General to facilitate the process of national reconciliation and democratization through his Special Envoy for Myanmar, as requested in paragraph 7 (a) and (c) of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.68/Rev.1 for a one-year period, from 1 January to 31 December 2004, amount to $245,900. This amount would cover the salaries for the Special Envoy on a when-actually-employed basis as well as the salaries and common staff costs for one staff, who would provide support to the Special Envoy; the official travel of the Special Envoy to Myanmar, neighbouring countries in the region, Europe and North America, including United Nations Headquarters; and miscellaneous services in support of his mission. Substantive and administrative support to the Special Envoy would be provided by the Department of Political Affairs. (For a cost breakdown of these activities, see the annex to the present statement.)

7. With regard to the request contained in paragraph 7 (d) of the draft resolution, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur falls under the category of activities considered to be of a perennial nature. Provisions for activities of this nature have already been included in the programme budget for the current biennium, as well as in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, under section 24, Human rights.

E. Action required from the General Assembly

8. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.68/Rev.1, a provision in the amount of $245,900 would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2004 for the continuation of the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar.

9. These requirements would be charged against the provision of $163,178,100 proposed for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.[4]

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/57/6/Rev.1).

[2] A/58/325, para. 16.

[3] A/58/325/Add.1, paras. 13 and 15.

[4] A/58/6 (Sect. 3).

Annex

Cost breakdown

Personnel costs

1. A provision in the amount of $130,900 is required for the salary of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, at the Under-Secretary-General level, for an estimated period of 210 days in 2004, at the rate applicable to individuals engaged on a when-actually-employed basis, and for the salaries and common staff costs of one local staff, who would provide support to the Special Envoy.

Travel

2. A provision amounting to $109,000 is required for the travel of the Special Envoy to Myanmar and neighbouring countries within the region, Europe and North America. Requirements for travel include airfare, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for an estimated 24 trips during 2004.

Operating costs

3. Requirements for miscellaneous services, including telephone calls, facsimile charges and other miscellaneous services are estimated at $6,000.

United Nations A/C.3/58/L.83

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Fifty-eighth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 113
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Liechtenstein, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Switzerland and Uruguay: amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.23/Rev.1

Importance of the role of parents in the care, development and well-being of their children

1. Replace the title with the following:

"Importance of the role of parents, legal guardians and other caregivers in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and the care, development and well-being of children".

2. Replace the existing first preambular paragraph with the following text:

"*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women".

3. Insert two new preambular paragraphs following the first preambular paragraph to read as follows:

"*Bearing in mind* the Convention on the Rights of the Child, emphasizing that the provisions of the Convention and other relevant human rights instruments must constitute the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and reaffirming that the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children,

"*Recognizing* that the family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened; that it is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support; that the primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children rests with the family; that all institutions of society should respect children's rights and secure their well-being and render appropriate assistance to parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers so that children can grow and develop in a safe and stable environment and in

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an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, bearing in mind that in different cultural, social, and political systems various forms of the family exist".

4. Replace the existing operative paragraph 1 with the following text:

"1. *Reaffirming* that States shall respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents, and, where applicable, members of the extended family or community as provided for by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the child, to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of his or her rights".

5. Insert a new operative paragraph following operative paragraph 1 to read as follows:

"*Reaffirms* the right of the child to education".

6. Replace the existing operative paragraph 4 with the following text:

"4. *Reaffirms* the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, as well as the rights and duties of the parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to provide direction to the child in the exercise of his or her right in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child".

United Nations A/C.3/58/L.84

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Fifty-eighth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 113
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.28

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.28, the General Assembly would recommend that the activities under the mandate of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict be supported through regular budgetary funding.

2. Since section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990 reaffirms that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirms also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the matter at hand falls outside the competence of the Third Committee and should be referred to the Fifth Committee for appropriate consideration.

03-62704 (E) 241103

United Nations A/C.3/58/L.85

General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 111
Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Draft resolution presented by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its past resolutions on the issue, including resolution 57/182 of 18 December 2002,

Recalling also the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[1] and the proposed actions and initiatives to overcome obstacles and challenges thereto,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[2] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide in the achievement of gender equality and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as by non-governmental organizations,

Stressing the importance of strong, sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels for achieving full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

[1] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

03-62667 (E) 241103

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Welcoming the increased attention to the situation of women and girls and the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the United Nations, in particular in the outcomes of major conferences, special sessions and summit conferences and their follow-up processes, and reaffirming its commitment to building on progress achieved in this respect,

Emphasizing the importance of Economic and Social Council decision 2003/287 of 24 July 2003 in which the Council decided to undertake, during its coordination segment in 2004, a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, adopted by the Council on 18 July 1997[3] and taking note of Council resolution 2003/49 of 24 July 2003,

Reaffirming the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in promoting the advancement of women and gender equality, while noting the open debate on peacekeeping and gender held in the Security Council on 28 October 2002 and 29 October 2003,

Taking note of the relevant General Assembly resolutions and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), of 31 October 2000,

1. *Reaffirms* the goals, objectives and commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[2] and also in the political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session;[1]

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[4]

3. *Calls upon* Governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to continue to take effective action to achieve full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

4. *Reaffirms* its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with its resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993, and 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 and other relevant resolutions, constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that plays the primary role in overall policy-making

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

[4] A/58/166.

and follow-up and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session will be undertaken within the framework of an integrated and coordinated follow-up to major international conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

6. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

7. *Calls upon* Governments and all other relevant actors to continue to integrate a gender perspective into the implementation of and follow-up to recent United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions and in future reports on this subject;

8. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[5] to include information on measures taken to implement the outcome of the twenty-third special session, as well as the Beijing Platform for Action, in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under article 18 of the Convention;

9. *Urges* Member States to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[6] in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and welcomes the imminent entry into force of this Protocol on 25 December 2003;

10. *Invites* Member States to submit before 30 April 2004, responses to the questionnaire of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, in preparation for the review and appraisal mandated in the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women,[7]

11. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to continue its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all activities in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, building upon agreed conclusions 1997/2 adopted by the Council on 18 July 1997,[3] and in this regard welcomes the inclusion of the issue of gender mainstreaming in its agenda, the consideration of annual progress made in gender mainstreaming and the attention given to gender perspective in the outcomes of the 2003 substantive session of the Council;

12. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to request the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to intensify efforts to build up a database, to be updated regularly, in which all programmes and projects carried out in their respective regions by organizations or bodies of the United Nations system are listed and to facilitate the dissemination of information on such programmes and projects as well as the evaluation of their impact on the

[5] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[6] Resolution 55/25, annexes I-III, and resolution 55/255, annex.

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 1* (E/2001/99), resolution 2001/4.

empowerment of women through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

13. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Commission on the Status of Women in the follow-up and review of the future implementation of the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, reaffirms that the Commission will continue to play a central role in this regard, and encourages Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to continue to support its work;

14. *Recognizes* the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action and of the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session by regional commissions and other regional or subregional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, and calls for the promotion of further cooperation in that respect among Governments and, where appropriate, national machineries of the same region;

15. *Also recognizes* that sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels are essential elements for the full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

16. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of gender equality and of women's empowerment and participation, together with the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, are among the essential elements for advancing the implementation of the Millennium Declaration,[8] with a particular view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions;

17. *Recognizes* that adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, including the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, will also be required;

18. *Emphasizes* that the creation of an enabling environment at the national and international levels, including through ensuring women's participation on an equal basis with men at all levels of decision-making, is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities, and calls upon States to remove obstacles to the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

19. *Reaffirms* that, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective, including through the work of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the maintenance of gender units and focal points;

[8] See resolution 55/2.

20. *Also reaffirms* that United Nations bodies that focus on gender issues, such as the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Children's Fund, have a critical role to play in the implementation of the objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and recognizes that gender specialists throughout the United Nations system also have an important role to play in this regard;

21. *Recognizes* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution, and urges the United Nations system and Governments to make further efforts in this regard and to take steps to ensure and support the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation in development activities and peace processes, including conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building, as well as through the integration of a gender perspective into those United Nations processes;

22. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by all relevant organizations of the United Nations system in promoting the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution;

23. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Geneva in 2003 and in Tunis in 2005, and encourages Governments and all other stakeholders to integrate a gender perspective into the preparatory processes and outcome documents, taking into account the agreed conclusions on participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women, adopted at the forty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women[9] and the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

24. *Welcomes also* the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[10] and urges States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

25. *Requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that all programmes, medium-term plans and programme budgets visibly mainstream a gender perspective;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to disseminate the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session as widely as possible in all the official languages of the United Nations;

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[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 7* (E/2003/27), chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III.

[10] Resolution 54/4, annex.

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to integrate a gender perspective in his reporting to the General Assembly, in order to support gender-sensitive policy formulation;

28. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system, including by providing information on key achievements, lessons learned and best practices, and to recommend further measures and strategies for future action within the United Nations system;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his annual and quinquennial reports on the follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration[8] an assessment of the progress made in promoting the goal of gender equality, in particular in relation to the development goals set forth in the Millennium Declaration, and recommendations to improve the measurement and coverage of indicators so that progress towards gender equality can be evaluated over time;

30. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations personnel and officials at Headquarters and in the field, especially in field operations, receive training on mainstreaming a gender perspective in their work, including gender impact analysis, and to ensure appropriate follow-up to such training;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide, by the end of 2004, a compilation of updated and substantiated statistics from Member States and other relevant sources on the situation of women and girls, including older women, in countries around the world, including by issuing a new volume of *The World's Women 2000: Trends and Statistics*;[11]

32. *Recognizes* the need to further include a gender perspective in the work of its main committees;

33. *Recalls*, in this regard, its request to each functional commission of the Economic and Social Council to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, recognizing that there is no need for a uniform approach since each functional commission has its own specificity, while also noting that modern methods of work can better guarantee the review of progress made in implementation at all levels, on the basis of a report with recommendations to be submitted by the Secretary-General to each functional commission and relevant subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council on their methods of work, in accordance with the provisions defined by the respective outcomes and relevant decisions taken by each body, bearing in mind the progress recently achieved in this regard by certain commissions, especially by the Commission on Sustainable Development, and recalling that the functional commissions and other relevant bodies of the Economic and Social Council should report to the Council no later than 2005 on the outcome of its examination;

[11] ST/ESA/STAT/SER.K/WWW/16/Rev.2.

34. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'".

United Nations A/C.3/58/L.86

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Third Committee
Agenda items 110 and 121

Advancement of women

Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Future operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

Summary

By draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36, the General Assembly would decide to continue providing its full support to the current efforts to revitalize the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), and in this regard to provide complementary funds, if needed, to ensure that the Institute will have adequate resources to function for a period of one year and to prepare the report requested in resolution 57/311, in the light of the delay in appointing a Director to implement a feasible work programme and fund-raising activities.

The period of one year indicated in paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36 would be from 1 January to 31 December 2004. It is estimated that with the recent appointment of the Director, the estimated balance in the INSTRAW Trust Fund would enable the Institute to continue its operations through September 2004. It is not possible at this stage to determine whether the Institute would have adequate resources to operate to 31 December 2004 without complementary funds. Contingent upon the availability of additional voluntary contributions prior to September 2004, an additional amount of $234,700 may be required from the regular budget of the United Nations to maintain the Institute in 2004.

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A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36, the General Assembly would decide to continue providing its full support to the current efforts to revitalize the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), and in this regard to provide complementary funds, if needed, to ensure that the Institute will have adequate resources to function for a period of one year and to prepare the report requested in resolution 57/311 of 18 June 2003, in the light of the delay in appointing a Director to implement a feasible work programme and fund-raising activities.

B. Procedures for administrative and budgetary matters

2. As paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36 deals with administrative and budgetary matters, the attention of the Committee is drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Under the circumstances, the consideration by the Third Committee of paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36 may be considered to be in contravention of resolution 45/248 B.

C. Background

3. In paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 57/311 of 18 June 2003, the Institute was requested to report to the Assembly, one year after the appointment of a Director, on its programme of work and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (see A/56/907).

4. The General Assembly, in its decision 57/580 of 20 December 2002 and resolution 57/311, approved a total amount of $500,000, as a charge against the contingency fund, to finance the core activities of the Institute in 2003.

5. It is recalled that the recommendations of the Working Group on the future operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women were submitted to the General Assembly on 16 August and 3 October 2002 (A/57/330 and Add.1). In its resolution 57/175 of 18 December 2002, the Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group and requested the Secretary-General to implement the measures recommended by the Working Group in this regard. A related statement of programme budget implications, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.3/57/L.82), indicated, inter alia, that in order to implement all the provisions contained in paragraph 57 of the report of the Working Group, the amount of $1,309,500 per year, in addition to the recommended provision of $500,000 from the regular budget, would be needed.

6. The report of the Working Group to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session (A/58/540) elaborates on the implementation of its recommendations contained in A/57/330 and Add.1. It is noted, in this connection, that due to the

financial situation of the Institute, some of these recommendations, especially those on creating the post of Deputy Director and establishing a liaison for INSTRAW in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, cannot be implemented. The Working Group has been provided, upon its request, with additional written information on the financial situation of the Institute. Most recently, information was provided immediately after the meeting of the Working Group in May 2003.

D. Current financial situation

7. In 2003 the financial situation of the Institute remained precarious. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Institute (A/58/426), requested in resolution 57/311, in addition to the United Nations regular budget grant of $500,000, only $149,370, including $130,924 in voluntary contributions and $18,446 in miscellaneous income, had been received in the INSTRAW Trust Fund as at 30 September 2003. It was estimated in that report that the balance of the INSTRAW Trust Fund as at 31 December 2003 would be approximately $453,551.

8. In October 2003 additional contributions of $191,825 were received in the INSTRAW Trust Fund. Taking into account these contributions, the balance of the Trust Fund as at 31 December 2003 is currently projected at $735,600. However, only $4,788 was pledged to the Trust Fund at the United Nations pledging conference for development activities, and it is therefore not possible to provide a reliable estimate of 2004 income at this time.

E. Activities by which proposals would be implemented

9. With due regard to the institutional and financial limitations placed upon the Institute, the following objectives and related activities have been formulated for 2004:

(a) Establish a secure and sustainable financial base for INSTRAW and re-establish its visibility through the implementation of an intense fund-raising strategy. This would include undertaking intensive fund-raising endeavours with States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations, private sources and other potential donors, forging key partnerships and undertaking collaborative activities with other organizations within and outside the United Nations system, and intensifying the INSTRAW presence at and contributions to relevant meetings and events at both the regional and international levels;

(b) Increase the Institute's outreach by continuing to expand and enhance the functioning of the Gender Awareness Information and Networking System (GAINS) including further populating its global community of national focal points, regional nodes, research and training institutions and information and communication technologies specialists;

(c) Build upon prior work of INSTRAW in the strategic areas of women and men building partnerships for gender equality, women and men in the information society and the impact of globalization on women. The research on emerging issues related to women's migration would be conducted and the results would be available electronically through GAINS services.

F. Administrative and financial arrangements and indication of additional requirements

10. It is assumed, on the basis of the financial period of the regular budget, that the period of one year indicated in paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36 would be from 1 January to 31 December 2004. It is also understood that the request to ensure that the Institute would have adequate resources to function for a period of one year implies the continuation of the core activities of the Institute, those resources being defined as the salaries of the four Professional and five General Service staff as well as related substantive and administrative non-post resource requirements.

11. The related requirements for 2004 are estimated at $970,300. This includes (a) $556,000 for nine current posts (1 D-2, 1 P-3, 2 P-2/1 and 5 General Service); (b) resource requirements for substantive activities, including general temporary assistance, consultancy and travel, estimated at $211,000; and (c) administrative resource requirements of $203,300, including general operating expenses, supplies and materials, equipment, etc.

12. It is anticipated that the estimated INSTRAW Trust Fund balance of $735,600 as at 31 December 2003, indicated in paragraph 8 above, would enable the Institute to continue its operations through September 2004. Accordingly, an additional amount of $234,700 would be required to maintain the Institute to the end of 2004.

13. It is not possible at this stage to determine whether the Institute would have adequate resources from voluntary contributions to function beyond September 2004. In the event that insufficient voluntary contributions are received prior to that date, the amount of $234,700 referred to above would have to be funded from the regular budget.

14. The programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 provides for no resources that would be made available for the support of INSTRAW operations in 2004. Any amount that the General Assembly may decide to allocate to enable the Institute to continue its operations beyond September 2004 would therefore need to be provided through an additional appropriation in the context of the operations of the contingency fund established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986.

G. Summary

15. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36, that decision would, contingent upon availability of additional voluntary contributions to the INSTRAW Trust Fund, give rise to potential additional requirements of $234,700 for the biennium 2004-2005 over and above the regular budget resources proposed under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require an increase in appropriations for the biennium 2004-2005.**

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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.78

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 3 and 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.78, as orally amended at the 58th meeting of the Third Committee, the General Assembly would:

(a) Endorse the Ad Hoc Committee's decision to establish a Working Group with the aim of preparing and presenting a draft text, which would be the basis for negotiations on the draft convention in the Ad Hoc Committee, taking into account all contributions;

(b) Decide also that the Ad Hoc Committee should hold, within existing resources, two sessions in 2004, each of a duration of 10 working days, prior to the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

2. Pursuant to operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, it is envisaged that the Working Group of the Ad Hoc Committee would hold one session at United Nations Headquarters, tentatively from 5 to 16 January 2004. It is estimated that it would require conference services for 20 meetings (two meetings per day) with interpretation services in all six languages. Documentation requirements are estimated at 250 pages of pre-session (for reproduction only), 100 pages of in-session and 100 pages of post-session documentation in six languages.

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3. In accordance with operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, the Ad Hoc Committee would hold two sessions at United Nations Headquarters in 2004 (tentative dates for the third session are 24 May to 4 June; and for the fourth session 23 August to 3 September), each for 10 working days. It is estimated that the sessions would require conference services for 20 meetings each (two meetings per day) with interpretation services in all six languages. Documentation requirements for each session are estimated at 50 pages of pre-session, 50 pages of in-session and 50 pages of post-session documentation in six languages.

4. The session of the Working Group of the Ad Hoc Committee and the fourth session of the Ad Hoc Committee would constitute additions to the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for the biennium 2004-2005 submitted to the General Assembly by the Committee on Conferences (see A/58/32). The third session of the Ad Hoc Committee has been included in the draft calendar of conferences and meetings on the assumption that the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee will be renewed by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. The conference-servicing costs of the Working Group of the Ad Hoc Committee and the fourth session of the Ad Hoc Committee are estimated at $763,500, at full cost.

5. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under that procedure, if additional expenditures were proposed that exceeded the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium. Additional provisions would be required over and above the resources initially proposed for 2004-2005 ($763,500). It is not possible at this stage to identify activities within sections 2 and 29D of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during that biennium, to meet the additional requirement of $763,500.

6. Owing to time constraints, information in the present statement has already been presented orally to the Third Committee.